

24. A traction drive for an elevator system, the elevator system including a car and a counterweight, the traction drive including a traction sheave driven by a machine and a tension member interconnecting the car and counterweight, the tension member having a width  $w$ , a thickness  $t$  measured in the bending direction, said tension member having a plurality of cords therein, said cords formed from a plurality of [including] wires of less than .25 millimeters in diameter, said tension member further having an engagement surface defined by the width dimension of the tension member, wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width  $w$  relative to thickness  $t$ , of greater than one, the traction sheave including a traction surface configured to receive the engagement surface of the tension member such that the traction between the sheave and tension member moves the car and counterweight.

32. A traction drive for an elevator system, the elevator system including a car and a counterweight, the traction drive including a traction sheave driven by a machine and a tension member interconnecting the car and counterweight, the tension member having a width  $w$ , a thickness  $t$  measured in the bending direction, said tension member having a plurality of cords therein including wires of less than .25 millimeters in diameter, said tension member further having an engagement surface defined by the width dimension of the tension member, wherein the tension member has an aspect ratio, defined as the ratio of width  $w$  relative to thickness  $t$ , of greater than one, the traction sheave including a traction surface configured to receive the engagement surface of the tension member such that the traction between the sheave and tension member moves the car and counterweight, the [The] traction drive [according to Claim 24,] further including a guidance device disposed proximate to the traction sheave, the guidance device engaged with the tension member to position the tension member for engagement with the traction sheave.

35. The traction drive according to Claim 24 [29], wherein the cords are formed from a plurality of wires arranged in a plurality of strands, each strand having seven wires with six wires twisted around one center wire.